

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1938

RUHQHQA/CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBAYYY NEW DELHI

USLO/PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 2453

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1. CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE TOWNSHIP PEOPLE'S WORKERS' COUNCIL (LOU)

IN AN APPARENTLY UNPRECEDENTED DEVELOPMENT, THE TOWNSHIP PEOPLE'S WORKERS' COUNCIL OF SAW (MAGWE DIVISION) HAS SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD CONGRATULATING THE UNITED STATES ON ITS BICENTENNIAL. THE WORKERS' COUNCIL IS A PART OF THE BURMA SOCIALIST PROGRAM PARTY (BSPP) ORGANIZATION. IN A REMARKABLE STATEMENT FOR SUCH AN ORGANIZATION, THE LETTER STATES THAT THE UNITED STATES IS THE "RIGHTFUL BIRTHPLACE OF THE WORKERS' MOVEMENT."

2. TWO GUB MAGAZINES HIGHLIGHT BICENTENNIAL, DRUGS (UNCL)

THE BSPP'S "NEWS OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS" AND "SPECTRUM," PUBLISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, BOTH PUBLISHED SPECIAL EDITIONS IN JULY. THE "NSWY" PRINTED 54,000 COPIES OF A BICENTENNIAL TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. 12 JULY INCLUDING A FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY, A 17-PAGE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER FEATURES DESCRIBING THE U.S. IN OBJECTIVE, NON-DEROGATORY, UNBIASED ACCOUNTS. ALTHOUGH PREVIOUSLY THE PARTY JOURNAL USUALLY REFERRED TO THE UNITED STATES AS TYPIFIED BY CAPITALISM IN ITS DEATH THROES, THE ARTICLES SAY IN PART THAT THE U.S. IS A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY WHERE EVEN THE COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST-LABOR PARTIES MAY EXIST.

"SPECTRUM," CIRCULATION 18,000, RAN ITS FRONT COVER AND TEN PAGES ON DRUGS, MOST OF THE MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY USIS.

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ALTHOUGH "SPECTRUM" HAS USED USIS FEATURES MANY TIMES IN THE PAST, IT IS EXTRAORDINARILY RARE FOR THE PARTY'S "NEWS OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS" TO PUBLISH ARTICLES USING SUCH A GREAT AMOUNT OF UNEQUIVOCALLY PRO-AMERICAN MATTER.

3. BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION PASSES 100,000 IN TEN DAYS (UNCL)

NOW IN ITS SECOND WEEK, THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL EXHIBITION IN RANGOON'S ENVOY HALL CONTINUED TO ATTRACT LARGE CROWDS. EARLY SUNDAY, THE TENTH DAY OF EXHIBITION, THE 100,000TH VISITOR CROSSED THE PORTAL AND BY TUESDAY, MORE THAN 123,000 PERSONS HAD VIEWED THE EXHIBITION, INCLUDING THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, COUNCIL OF STATE MEMBERS, SENIOR PARTY OFFICIALS AND MANY OTHER SENIOR GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS.

4. GUB WILL NOT REPLACE NEWS AND PERIODICALS CORPORATION DIRECTOR (UNCL)

ALL NEWSPAPERS ANNOUNCED THAT U MYA MAUNG, DEPUTY MINISTER OF INFORMATION, WILL PERFORM THE DUTIES OF MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NEWS AND PERIODICALS CORP. (NPC) IN ADDITION TO HIS OWN DUTIES. U BA KYAW, FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR, RETIRED JULY 9, BUT WAS IMMEDIATELY REEMPLOYED AS "TECHNICAL CONSULTANT" FOR ONE YEAR. THUS NPC, "CHIEF EDITOR OF ALL BURMA'S NEWSPAPERS," WILL BE WITHOUT A MANAGING CHIEF, PLACING IT IN THE SAME SITUATION AS THE MIRROR, GUARDIAN AND WORKING PEOPLES' DAILY (ENGLISH) WHICH ARE RUN BY A DEPUTY OR BY AN EDITOR WHO SPLITS HIS TIME BETWEEN THE NEWSPAPER AND ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES IN NPC. MORE THAN EVER, DECISIONS WILL BE MADE FOR ALL MEDIA IN THE MINISTER'S OFFICE.

5. NARCOTICS: SEIZURES AND ARRESTS (CNCL)

THE ANTI-NARCOTICS ACTION IN THE CITIES MAINTAINS ITS MOMENTUM. NINE OFFENDERS WERE ARRESTED IN ACTIONS REPORTED DURING THE PAST WEEK. OVER 25 VISS (41 KILOGRAMS) OF RAW OPIUM AND 50 PACKETS OF HEROIN WERE SEIZED. ALSO, IN ADDITION TO THE EIGHT OFFENDERS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED

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TO A MINIMUM OF TEN YEARS (RANGOON 2376), THREE OFFENDERS WERE SENTENCED TO ONE TO FIVE YEARS FOR POSSESSION. ONE ESCAPEE FROM A TREATMENT FACILITY WAS GIVEN ONE YEAR IMPRISONMENT, AND ANOTHER OFFENDER WAS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS FOR POSSESSION OF THREE VIALS OF HEROIN. CONCOMITANT TO THE WIDE-SPREAD PUBLICITY ON ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS HAS BEEN THE TRAVEL OF PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, U SHWE THAN, TO SEVERAL NARCOTICS-PRODUCING AREAS. HIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN THAT THE CRACK-DOWN WILL CONTINUE AND THAT LOCAL POLICE BRANCHES ARE EXPECTED TO EXECUTE THE LAW ASSIDUOUSLY.

6. NARCOTICS: LO HSING-HAN TRIAL (UNCL)

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL MONTHS OF THIS TWO AND A

HALF YEAR OLD TRIAL, LO HSING-HAN TOOK THE STAND ON JULY 8 AND 9. HIS TESTIMONY WAS BASICALLY SELF-SERVING, RELATING HOW HE HAD HELPED THE GOVERNMENT BY FIGHTING VARIOUS INSURGENTS. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WAS LO'S STATEMENT FOCUSING ON THE NARCOTICS AND INSURGENCY ACTIVITIES OF JIMMY YANG AND FAMILY, INCLUDING AN ASSOCIATION WITH THE PENG BROTHERS WHO ARE NOW SENIOR COMMANDERS IN THE BCP. THE TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH MID-JULY.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1939

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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USLO/PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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7. AVIATION: THE VISCOUNTS ARE GONE (UNCL)

ACCORDING TO LOCAL BAC OFFICIALS, THE LAST OF THE VISCOUNTS HAS DEPARTED RANGOON, CONSIDERABLY CALMING THE NERVES OF THOSE WHO TRAVEL FREQUENTLY. THE AIRCRAFT WERE SOLD TO

A GERMAN COMPANY --NAME UNKNOWN -- WHO IS USING THE AIRCRAFT IN SOUTH AMERICA.

8. SECOND F-28 FOR BURMA AIRWAYS CORP. (LOU)

BURMA AIRWAYS CORPORATION'S (BAC) OPERATIONS MANAGER AND ONE PILOT DEPARTED JULY 10 FOR HOLLAND TO TAKE DELIVERY OF A SECOND F-28. THE PLANE IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN
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BURMA NEAR THE END OF JULY. IT WILL JOIN THE F-28 ACQUIRED LAST APRIL, THUS BOOSTING BAC'S DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CAPABILITY.

A BAC OFFICIAL SAID THE AIRLINE HAS NO DEFINITE PLANS AS TO HOW BEST TO UTILIZE THIS NEW ADDITION. HOWEVER HE STATED THAT BAC IS ANXIOUS TO RESUME FLIGHTS TO HONG KONG ONCE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES REGARDING VIETNAM OVERFLIGHTS ARE OVERCOME. HE POINTED OUT THAT BAC IS ONE OF THE FEW AIRLINES THAT HAS RIGHTS TO OVERFLY BOTH VIETNAM AND THE PRC ON BANGKOK-HONG KONG FLIGHTS. THIS IS A MUCH SHORTER ROUTE THAN OTHER AIRLINES MUST FOLLOW AND SHOULD RESULT IN CONSIDERABLE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE FOR BAC ONCE HONG KONG AGREES TO ALLOW LANDINGS BY PLANES UTILIZING THIS ROUTE.

9. RETURN OF NATIONALIZED PROPERTY (LOU)

THE GUB HAS FORMED A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO SCREEN THE MANY APPLICATIONS FOR RETURN OF NATIONALIZED BUILDINGS. THE COMMITTEE BEGAN WORK ON JULY 1 AND SO FAR HAS GONE THROUGH ABOUT 100 APPLICATIONS. PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR COMPENSATION OR RETURN OF NATIONALIZED PROPERTY HAS BEEN PROCEEDING AT A GLACIAL PACE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE FORMATION OF YET ANOTHER COMMITTEE WILL SPEED UP THE PROCESS.

10. KMT OFFICIAL IMPRISONED (LOU)

THE PRESS RECENTLY REPORTED THAT U HLA SOE (LIAN KYAN IK), GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE BURMA KUOMINTANG PARTY, HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO FOUR YEAR'S JAIL ON UNSPECIFIED CHARGES. LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT LIAN KYAN IK OTHER THAN THAT HE WAS ARRESTED IN 1964 AT THE TIME OF A VISIT BY CHOU EN-LAI.

COMMENT: THE GUB TAKES A DIM VIEW OF ANY KMT ACTIVITY, AND LIAN KYAN IK'S IMPRISONMENT MAY BE A FURTHER EXAMPLE OF GUB HARASSMENT OF THE KMT.

11. INVESTIGATION OF LEPANTO AFFAIR (CONF)

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THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU (NIB) HAS REPORTEDLY
BEGUN AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEPANTO FIELD AND THE DECISION TO
BUILD A TEN-INCH PIPELINE FROM THE FIELD TO THE IRRAWADDY
RIVER. IT IS NOW OBVIOUS THAT THE SIZE OF THE FIELD WAS
OVERESTIMATED AND CONSTRUCTION OF A PIPELINE WAS NOT
JUSTIFIED. TWO PERSONS WHO MAY BE ENDANGERED BY THIS
INVESTIGATION ARE DR. NYI NYI, NOW AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA
BUT WHO, AS MINISTER OF MINES, HEADED THE MYANMA OIL COR-
PORATION (MOC) WHEN THE DISCOVERY WAS MADE, AND U THAN
NYUNT, CURRENTLY THE NUMBER TWO MAN AT MOC.

12. OIL DEVELOPMENTS (CONF)

ESSO'S NEW WELL HAS REACHED THE 6500 FOOT LEVEL. DRILLING
HAS SO FAR ENCOUNTERED MUDSTONE AND SOME SHALE.
OSBORN

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